



Committee on Public Safety

*Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair
Councilor Jesse M. Adams
Councilor William H. Dwight
Councilor David A. Murphy*

**July 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street,
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building
Northampton, MA**

***Activate NCTV Camera to Record Meeting**

1. **Members present:** Jesse M. Adams, David A. Murphy, Councilor William H. Dwight (5:20p.m. arrival). In the absence of Committee Chair Councilor Carney, Councilor Adams acted as the Chair for this meeting.
2. **Members Absent:** Councilor Maureen T. Carney.
3. **Meeting Called to Order:** At 5:07 p.m., Councilor Adams called the meeting to order.
4. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting:** Councilor Adams announced that the meeting will be audio and video recorded.
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Approval of Minutes of June 2, 2014:** Note: this item was taken out of order. At 5:35 Councilor Murphy moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 2, 2014; Councilor Dwight seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a Voice Vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.
7. **Report of Building Commissioner's Office:**
 - **Summary of Building Permits**—Commissioner Hasbrouck submitted a Permit Listing Report. The highlights include:
 - Between July 1, 2013 and June 20, 2014 the total fees invoiced by the Building Commissioner's Office were \$74,642.15 for 35 permits.
 - Single family home permit applications has increased significantly since FY2012; Hospital Hill development, Emerson Way development & Beaver Brook development have accounted for many of these new home permits.
 - Mr. Hasbrouck indicated that he does not believe the report reflects the Fairfield Inn project.
 - Building Permit fees have not changed since FY2007.
 - There has been an increase in new houses being built on existing lots as a result of recently revised zoning requirements. The number of proposals is significant. Mr. Hasbrouck indicates that there will be more applications coming from Clark School which plans to reconfigure existing structures; in addition, he has just signed off on 44 new units at the VA Hospital.

- Brief history of former Honda Dealer on King Street:
 - Mr. Hasbrouck shared a Letter written to the building owner; it contains typical language when a building is deemed to be unsafe. The letter specifies that the owner must make the building safe or demolish the building. The letter references building code language from the 780 CMR Massachusetts State Building Code Section 116- Unsafe Structures.
 - The owner wasn't able to meet the City's timeline in order for the structure to be demolished. Since that time, the owner then signed a contract to have the demolition completed. The only remaining piece is the cutting and securing of the Columbia Gas gas lines.
 - Potential for the site is an "Entry Way Business" which allows for retail use and highway business.
- Smith College plans construction in the near future; a house relocation has been discussed: the laws are written such that the re-location of a house must be allowed.
- Blighted properties: the City is able place regulations on making owners take down unsafe/unsecured structures.
- Property values are higher in Northampton; in other communities the value of the property does not make it attractive enough of the owner to tear down a structure and replace it with another structure.

8. **NEW BUSINESS** –NONE

9. **ADJOURN** – Councilor Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Dwight seconded the motion. The motion passed on a Voice Vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Respectfully Submitted By:
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